

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 1-11 without disclaimer or prejudice to be pursued in this or a later-filed continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part patent application and add the following new claims.

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

12. (new) A vehicle information system installed aboard a passenger vehicle, comprising:

a headend system for communicating with a content source including a first content library associated with a first passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle and a second content library associated with a second passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle;

a first portable media device associated with the first passenger seat group, said first portable media device for selecting and receiving first viewing content available from the first content library via said headend system and for presenting the selected first viewing content; and

a second portable media device associated with the second passenger seat group, said second portable media device for selecting and receiving second viewing content available from the second content library via said headend system and for presenting the selected second viewing content,

wherein the first content library is different from the second content library and is not available to said second portable media device.

13. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein said first portable media device includes:

- a handheld case having a predetermined shape and including a communication port;
- a transceiver system for wirelessly communicating with said headend system via the communication port, said transceiver system being disposed within said handheld case;
- an integrated user interface system being provided on said handheld case and including:
 - a video presentation system for selecting among the first viewing content available from the first content library via a menu-based system and for presenting a video portion of the selected first viewing content;
 - an audio presentation for presenting an audio portion of the selected first viewing content; and
 - a control system for selecting the selected first viewing content for presentation and controlling the presentation of the selected first viewing content.

14. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 13, wherein the selected first viewing content is selected and presented solely via the user interface system

15. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein the content source is remote from the passenger vehicle.

16. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein access to the second content library is conditioned upon receipt of valid authorization information from said second portable media device.

17. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein the first content library is made available to said second portable media device upon payment of a fee.

18. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 17, wherein a content preview from the first content library is available for presentation via said second portable media device prior to the payment of the fee.

19. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein said first portable media device is configured to upload content to the content source.

20. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 19, wherein said headend system inhibits said first portable media device from uploading inappropriate viewing content to the content source.

21. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein the first content library includes at least a portion of the second content library.

22. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of said first portable media devices each being associated with the first passenger seat group and configured for selecting the first viewing content available from the first content library and for presenting the selected first viewing content.

23. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of said second portable media devices each being associated with the second passenger seat group and configured for selecting the second viewing content available from the second content library and for presenting the selected second viewing content.

24. (new) An aircraft including a vehicle information system characterized by claim 12.

25. (new) A portable media device for selecting and receiving preselected viewing content available from a relevant content library of a content source via a headend system and for presenting the preselected first viewing content, comprising:

a handheld case having a predetermined shape and including a communication port;

a transceiver system for wirelessly communicating with a headend system of the vehicle information system via the communication port, said transceiver system being disposed within said handheld case;

an integrated user interface system being provided on said handheld case and including:

a video presentation system for selecting among the first viewing content available from the first content library via a menu-based system and for presenting a video portion of the selected first viewing content;

an audio presentation for presenting an audio portion of the selected first viewing content; and

a control system for selecting the selected first viewing content for presentation and controlling the presentation of the selected first viewing content, wherein said portable media device and the relevant content library are associated with a selected passenger seat group, and

wherein the content source includes a second content library that is different from the relevant content library, that is associated with a second passenger seat group, and that is not available to said portable media device.

26. (new) A vehicle information system installed aboard a passenger vehicle, comprising:

a headend system for communicating with a content source including a relevant content library associated with a relevant passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle; and

a portable media device for selecting and receiving preselected viewing content available from the relevant content library of the content source via the headend system and for presenting the preselected first viewing content as characterized by claim 25.

27. (new) A vehicle information system installed aboard a passenger vehicle, comprising:

a headend system for communicating with a first content source including a first content library associated with a first passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle and a second content source including a second content library associated with a second passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle;

a plurality of first handheld media devices associated with the first passenger seat group and communicating with the first content source, each of said first handheld media devices for selecting and receiving first viewing content available from the first content library via said headend system and for presenting the selected first viewing content; and

a plurality of second handheld media devices associated with the second passenger seat group and communicating with the second content source, each of said second handheld media devices for selecting and receiving second viewing content available from the second content library via said headend system and for presenting the selected second viewing content,

wherein the first content library is different from the second content library and is not available to said second handheld media device.

28. (new) A method for distributing viewing content aboard a passenger vehicle, comprising:

providing a headend system, said headend system for communicating with a content source including a first content library associated with a first passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle and a second content library associated with a second passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle, the second content library being different from the first content library;

associating a first portable media device with the first passenger seat group, said first portable media device for selecting and receiving first viewing content available from the first content library via said headend system and for presenting the selected first viewing content; and

associating a second portable media device with the second passenger seat group, said second portable media device for selecting and receiving second viewing content available from the second content library via said headend system and for presenting the selected second viewing content,

wherein the first content library is different from the second content library and is not available to said second portable media device.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, further comprising making the first content library available to said second portable media device upon payment of a fee.

30. (new) The method of claim 28, further comprising configuring said first portable media device to upload content to the content source.

31. (new) A vehicle information system installed aboard a passenger vehicle, comprising:

a headend system for communicating with a content source including a first content library associated with a first passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle and a second content library associated with a second passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle, the second content library being different from the first content library;

a first handheld media device associated with the first passenger seat group, said first handheld media device for selecting and receiving first viewing content available from the first content library via said headend system and for presenting the selected first viewing content; and

a second handheld media device associated with the second passenger seat group, said second handheld media device for selecting and receiving second viewing content available from the second content library via said headend system and for presenting the selected second viewing content,

wherein the first content library is different from the second content library and is not available to said second handheld media device, and

wherein said first handheld media device includes:

a handheld case having a predetermined shape and including a communication port;

a transceiver system for communicating with the content source via the communication port, said transceiver system being disposed within said handheld case;

an integrated user interface system being provided on said handheld case and including:

a video presentation system for selecting among the first viewing content available from the first content library via a menu-based system and for presenting a video portion of the selected first viewing content;

an audio presentation for presenting an audio portion of the selected first viewing content; and

a control system for selecting the selected first viewing content for presentation and controlling the presentation of the selected first viewing content.